GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2592
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2007
PRIVATE DISH OPERATOR
Gehlot Shri Thaawar Chand

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of guidelines framed by the Government for telecasting news and local Advertisements by the private dish operators in the country;

(b) the authority by whose permission the news and local advertisements are being telecasted on news channels, operated by private dish operators in the country, particularly in metropolitan cities;

(c) whether the Government is aware that private dish operators are violating the guidelines followed by the Government in this matter;

(d) if so, the details of rights given to State Governments and local administration to put a check on the telecasting of such news and advertisements;

(e) whether the Government is taking any action to ensure fairness in telecasting of news by private news operators; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. DASMUNSI)

(a): The private dish operators more commonly known as cable operators are regulated as per the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 as amended and rules made thereunder. All programmes including news are bound to follow the programme code as prescribed under Rule 6 and all advertisements are bound to follow the advertisement code as prescribed under Rule 7 of the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994 as amended.

(b): A cable operator does not need separate permission for telecasting of news or local advertisements and can do so as per the provisions of the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994.

(c) to (f): Yes, Sir. Complaints received in the Ministry generally pertain to violation of programme and advertisement codes. Authorised officers are responsible for enforcement of the provisions of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act and rules made there under. The DM or SDM or Commissioner of Police are authorized officer as per section 2(a) of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995. State Governments are empowered under Section 2(a) of the said Act to notify any other officer as authorized officer by official Gazette notification for such local limits of jurisdiction as determined by that Government. The authorized officers are empowered to seizure and confiscation of certain equipment used for operating the cable television networks, filing written complaint before court for taking cognizance of offence, prohibit transmission of certain programmes in public interest and prohibit operation of Cable TV Network in public interest. As such complaints received are referred to concerned authorized officers for taking appropriate action under the provisions of Act/Rules.